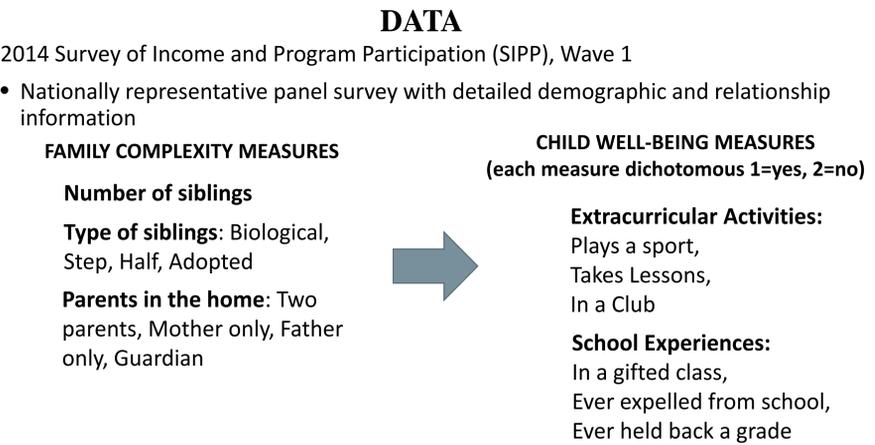


Family Complexity and Children's Well-Being

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What is family complexity?
The combination of family structure (presence and marital status of parents) and sibling composition (half, step, bio siblings) (Manning, Brown, and Stykes 2014)



The 2014 SIPP has a more accurate estimate of half siblings, compared to previous SIPP data

Changes to the 2014 survey and editing process that affect these estimates:

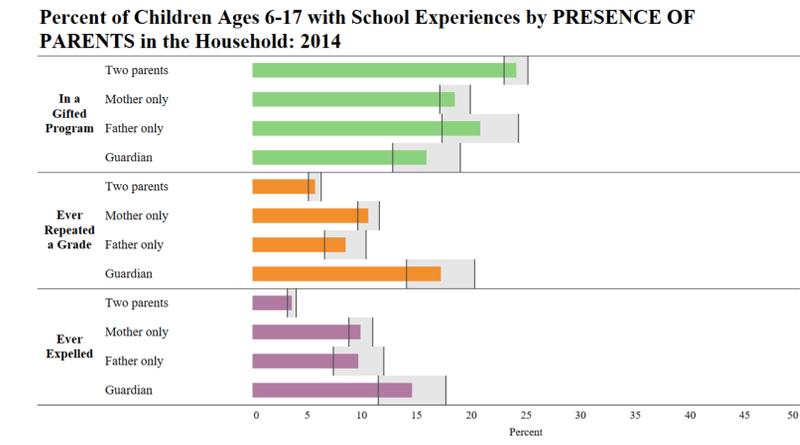
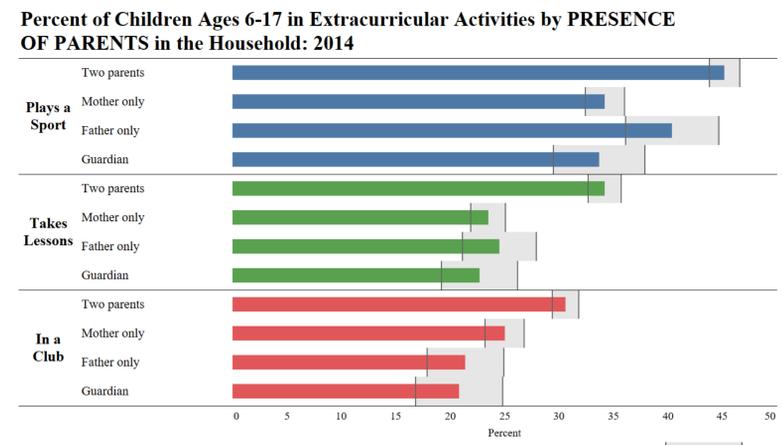
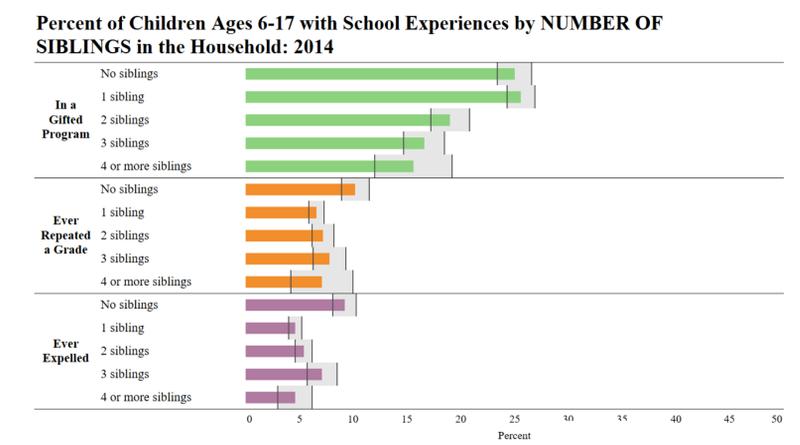
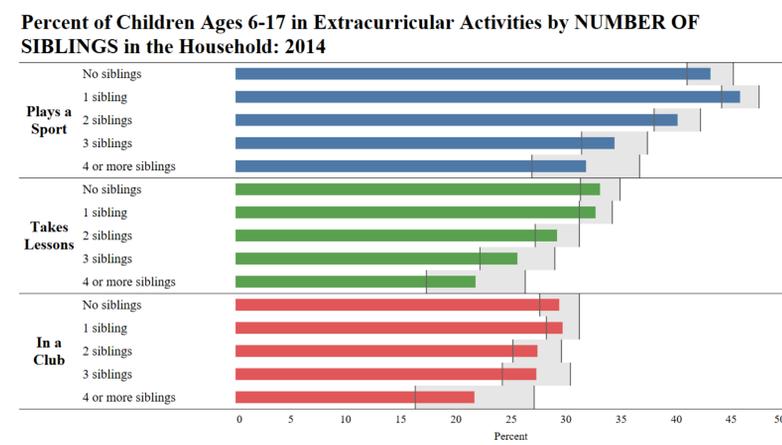
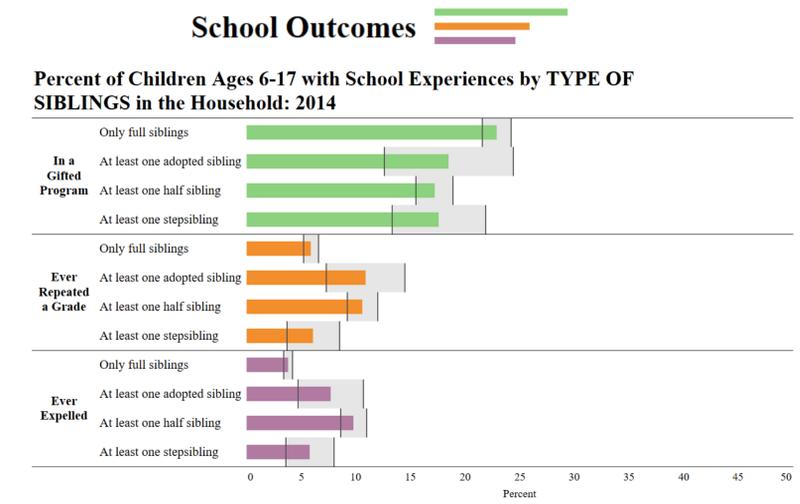
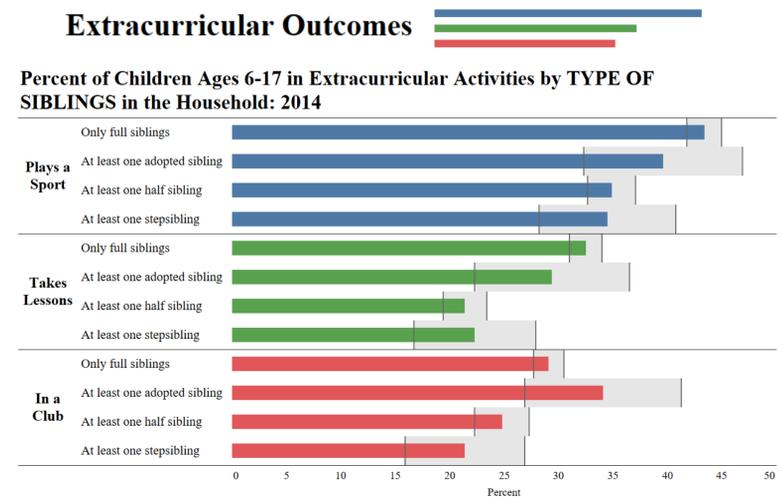
- Full fertility history collected from men and women, including new multiple partner fertility questions, shows whether children have the same two parents
- In previous panels, a respondent identified the relationship between every person in the household
 - This is now determined from fertility and demographic questions in the survey

Type of Siblings in the Household, All Children: 2009 vs 2014 (Numbers in thousands)

	All Children			
	2009		2014	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Children	74,130	100	73,540	100
Living with:				
At least one sibling	57,740	77.9	57,600	78.3
Only full siblings	47,620	64.2	42,280	57.5
At least one stepsibling	1,267	1.7	1,642	2.2
At least one adopted sibling	1,231	1.7	1,560	2.1
At least one half sibling	7,987	10.8	12,540	17.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation 2014, Wave 1. Kreider, R., and R. Ellis. 2011. "Living Arrangements of Children: 2009 Household Economic Studies."

Is family complexity associated with child well-being?



Grayed area in figures shows 90% confidence interval

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation 2014, Wave 1

What about when controlling for race/origin and poverty?

Logistic Regression Results: Likelihood of Participating in Extracurricular Activities and School Experiences
Only statistically significant (p<0.05) results shown

Family Complexity Variables	Extracurricular Activities	School Experiences
<i>No half/step siblings (ref group)</i>		
At least one half/step sibling	Takes lessons ↓	Ever repeated a grade ↑ Ever been expelled ↓
<i>No siblings (ref group)</i>		
1-2 siblings	Takes lessons ↓	Ever been expelled ↓
3 or more siblings	Plays a sport ↓ Takes lessons ↓	In a gifted program ↓ Ever repeated a grade ↓ Ever been expelled ↓
<i>Two parents (ref group)</i>		
Mother only	Plays a sport ↓ Takes lessons ↓	Ever repeated a grade ↑ Ever been expelled ↓
Father only	Takes lessons ↓ Involved in a club ↓	Ever been expelled ↓
Guardian	Plays a sport ↓ Takes lessons ↓ Involved in a club ↓	In a gifted program ↓ Ever repeated a grade ↓ Ever been expelled ↓

Regression model includes: Type of sibling, number of siblings, parents present in the home, poverty status, race/origin, and child's age
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation 2014, Wave 1

Yes, family complexity is associated with child well-being, even when controlling for race/origin and poverty.

Complex sibling arrangements are not uncommon in families today. However, children living with fewer siblings, only biological siblings, or with two parents had **higher extracurricular involvement** and **more positive school experiences**. Controlling for race and poverty narrowed this gap, but did not erase this relationship.

Scan to see more info, including tables and references

